

# Saini sizzles on debut as India draws first blood in T20I series

After restricting the Caribbean side to 95, the Men in Blue make heavy weather of the small target before scampering home in the 18th over

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAUDERHILL (USA)

Debutant pacer Navdeep Saini claimed three wickets in an impressive spell as India restricted the West Indies to a paltry 95 for nine and in reply, kept losing wickets at regular intervals before crossing the finish line in the 18th over, in the first T20I here on Saturday.

After losing Shikhar Dhawan cheaply, Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli added 28 before the vice-captain fell to Sunil Narine. Rishabh Pant was out off the next delivery, going for a big hit.

However, Kohli (19), Manish Pandey (19) and Krunal Pandey (12) chipped in before Ravindra Jadeja (10 not out) Washington Sundar (eight not out) took the team home. Washington finished the match in style with a six off Paul.

### Bowlers to the fore

Opting to field, all the six Indian bowlers got at least a wicket, with Saini returning figures of three for 17 on his debut. India was also helped by the reckless approach of the West Indies batsmen.

There was no substantial partnership in the West Indies innings, the highest being 34 between captain Carlos Brathwaite (nine) and top-scorer Kieron Pollard (49) for the sixth wicket. Nicholas Pooran (20) was the only other West Indian to touch double digits.

### Miserable start

India opened the bowling with off-spinner Washington (one for 18) and got a wicket

off the second ball when John Campbell slapped straight to Krunal Pandya at deep midwicket.

The other opener, Evin Lewis, fell in the second over as Bhuvneshwar Kumar (two for 19) beat him with a knuckle ball and rattled his timber. Both the openers failed to open their account as the West Indies was reduced to eight for two.

### Aggressive approach

Despite this, West Indies continued to be aggressive in its approach and Saini exploited the situation by claiming two wickets off two balls in the fifth over.

Pooran, who was looking dangerous after hitting two sixes, went for another big shot but the ball ballooned

up for wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant to take an easy catch. Shimron Hetmyer (zero) then dragged the next ball onto the stump for Saini's second wicket.

### Falling apart

The West Indies procession continued with Rovman Powell (four) falling to Khaleel Ahmed (one for eight) in the next over and it was reduced to 33 for five at the end of Powerplay.

Pollard and Brathwaite curbed their attacking instincts for a while and played some sensible cricket, adding 34 runs.

Brathwaite and Sunil Narine were dismissed in the 15th and 16th overs as West Indies could not even reach 100 despite Pollard's 49.

## SCOREBOARD WEST INDIES VS INDIA, 1ST T20I

### WEST INDIES

John Campbell c Krunal b Washington 0 (2b), Evin Lewis b Bhuvneshwar 0 (4b), Nicholas Pooran c Pant b Saini 20 (16b, 1x4, 2x6), Kieron Pollard lbw b Saini 49 (49b, 2x4, 4x6), Shimron Hetmyer b Saini 0 (1b), Rovman Powell c Pant b Khaleel 4 (5b, 1x4), Carlos Brathwaite c & b Krunal 9 (24b), Sunil Narine c Khaleel b Jadeja 2 (4b), Keemo Paul c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 3 (11b), Sheldon Cottrell (not out) 0 (1b), Oshane Thomas (not out) 0 (3b); Extras (w-8): 8; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 95.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Campbell, 0.2 overs), 2-8 (Lewis, 1.6), 3-28 (Pooran, 4.4), 4-28 (Hetmyer, 4.5), 5-33 (Powell, 5.6), 6-67 (Brathwaite, 14.2), 7-70 (Narine, 15.1), 8-88 (Paul, 18.1), 9-95 (Pollard, 19.3).

### INDIA BOWLING

Washington 2-0-18-1, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-19-2, Saini 4-1-17-3, Khaleel 2-0-8-1, Krunal 4-1-20-1, Jadeja 4-1-13-1.

### INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Pollard b Narine 24 (25b, 2x4, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan lbw b Cottrell 1 (7b), Virat Kohli c Pollard b Cottrell 19 (29b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant c Cottrell 0 (1b), Manish Pandey b Paul 19 (14b, 2x4), Krunal Pandya b Paul 12 (14b, 1x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 10 (9b), Washington Sundar (not out) 8 (5b, 1x6); Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 17.2 overs): 98.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Dhawan, 1.6), 2-32 (Rohit, 6.3), 3-32 (Pant, 6.4), 4-64 (Pandey, 11.4), 5-69 (Kohli, 13.5), 6-88 (Krunal, 15.6).

### WEST INDIES BOWLING

Thomas 4-0-29-0, Cottrell 4-0-20-2, Narine 4-0-14-2, Paul 3.2-0-23-2, Brathwaite 2-0-12-0.

Toss: India.

Man-of-the-Match: Saini.

India won by four wickets with 16 balls to spare and leads three-match series 1-0.



Jump of joy: Navdeep Saini is on cloud nine after breaching the defence of Shimron Hetmyer. \*AP

## STAT SPHERE

1 Saini is the first Indian bowler, and fourth overall, to bowl a 20th over maiden in a T20I. Jeetan Patel (NZ), Mohd. Amir (Pak) and Janak Prakash (Singapore) are the others to have achieved the feat earlier. Janak, too, did it on his debut

1 The first time India got both the opposition openers for a duck in T20Is

2 Saini is the second Indian to claim two

wickets in his first over in T20Is after Pragyan Ojha (vs Ban, Trent Bridge, 2009)

2 Number of times the West Indian openers have been dismissed for ducks in T20Is. The earlier instance involved Gayle and Walton (vs NZ, Mount Maunganui, 2018)

3 This is the third successive sub-100 total posted by West Indies 45/10 (11.5) vs England, Basseterre, St. Kitts

71/10 (13) vs England, Basseterre, St. Kitts

95/9 (20) vs India, Lauderhill

9 Number of occasions India has dismissed/restricted an opponent to a sub-100 total in T20Is

Pollard (49) missed a chance to score his first T20I half-century since 2012



### KOHLI SAYS...

Saini is a raw talent, has raw pace. He is one of them who can bowl 150 clicks. He is someone who can build a name for himself and he is hungry as well. Hopefully he builds on from here

Our bowling and fielding were right up there but the pitch wasn't great. With the rain around, you could not do much. They did well to start the game on time

We would have liked to chase it four down, but we wanted to take risks and [keep] the scoreboard moving. As the ball got older, strike rotation became key

# Australia on the backfoot at Edgbaston

Looks to Smith to bail it out again; Woakes-Broad stand frustrates the visitors

## THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BIRMINGHAM

Australia was left hoping for another major innings from Steve Smith as England took charge of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston on Saturday.

When bad light cut short the third day's play, Australia was 124 for three in its second innings – a lead of just 34.

Former captain Smith, who had made a superb 144 in the first innings, was batting on 46 along with Travis Head (21), their stand worth 49.

Australia, looking to win its first series away to England in 18 years, was struggling at 27 for two after openers David Warner and Cameron Bancroft both fell cheaply.

Smith, on 41, was struck on the side of the head after missing a pull off a Stokes bouncer, but was passed fit to bat on by the Australia team doctor.

### The slump

Earlier, England opener Rory Burns batted for nearly eight hours for 133 – his maiden Test hundred – in an innings of 374 featuring half-centuries from captain Joe Root (57) and vice-captain Stokes (50).

England lost three wickets



Big boost: Woakes and Broad's ninth-wicket stand gave England a 90-run lead. \*ACTION IMAGES

for four runs to slump to 300 for eight – a lead of just 16.

But a ninth-wicket partnership of 65 between Chris Woakes, who made 37 not out on his Warwickshire home ground, and Broad (29) boosted England's total.

Woakes hoisted Lyon for six and the pair accumulated runs steadily before Broad, who batted for nearly two hours, turned fast bowler Cummins straight to long leg.

Cummins took three for 84 in 33 overs on a placid but wearing pitch and off-spinner Nathan Lyon three for 112 in 43.5 overs.

## SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND

Australia – 1st innings: 284.

England – 1st innings: Rory Burns c Paine b Lyon 133, Jason Roy c Smith b Pattinson 10, Joe Root c & b Siddle 57, Joe Denly lbw b Pattinson 18, Jos Buttler c Bancroft b Cummins 5, Ben Stokes c Paine b Cummins 50, Jonny Bairstow c Warner b Siddle 8, Moeen Ali b Lyon 0, Chris Woakes (not out) 37, Stuart Broad c Pattinson b Cummins 29, James Anderson c Cummins b Lyon 3, Extras (b-10, lb-11, nb-1, w-2): 24; Total (in 135.5 overs) 374.

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-154, 3-189, 4-194, 5-282, 6-296, 7-300, 8-300, 9-365.

Australia bowling: Cummins 33-9-84-3, Pattinson 27-3-82-2, Siddle 27-8-52-2, Lyon 43.5-8-112-3, Wade 1-0-7-0, Head 2-1-7-0, Smith 2-0-9-0.

Australia – 2nd innings: C. Bancroft c Buttler b Moeen 7, D. Warner c Bairstow b Broad 8, U. Khawaja c Bairstow b Stokes 40, S. Smith (batting) 46, T. Head (batting) 21; Extras (b-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 31 overs): 124.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-27, 3-75.

England bowling: Broad 6-0-26-1; Woakes 6-1-20-0; Moeen 9-0-47-1; Root 3-0-12-0; Stokes 7-2-18-1.

# India-A makes it 2-0 with seven-wkt. win

Mayank, Panchal, Abhimanyu and Anmolpreet come up with good knocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PORT OF SPAIN

Openers Mayank Agarwal and Priyank Panchal struck fine half-centuries as India-A registered a comfortable seven-wicket win over West Indies-A in the second 'Test' here on Saturday.

Chasing 278, Mayank made 81 off 134 balls while Panchal scored 68 off 121 de-

liveries to set up the victory on the final day of the four-day match.

### Opening stand

Mayank and Panchal shared 150 runs for the opening wicket to set the platform for India-A's chase.

Abhimanyu Easwaran also chipped in with an unbeaten 62 while Anmolpreet

Singh contributed an undefeated 51 as India-A reached 281 for three in 79.1 overs to win the match and take a 2-0 lead in the series.

India-A didn't lose any wicket in the first session and was just 33 shy of victory at lunch.

India-A resumed the final day at 185 for three.

Earlier, off-spinner Krish-

nappa Gowtham took five wickets as West Indies-A was bowled out for 149.

### The scores:

West Indies-A 318 & 149 in 39.5 overs (S. Ambiris 71, Sandeep Warrier three for 43, Krishnappa Gowtham five for 17) lost to India-A 190 & 281 for three in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 81, Priyank Panchal 68, Abhimanyu Easwaran 62 n.o., Anmolpreet Singh 51 n.o.).

## Tyagi, Jaiswal star for colts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHELMSFORD

The India under-19 team edged out England under-19 by one wicket in their tri-series match here on Saturday.

Put in to bat, England was all out for 204 in 49.5 overs with pacer Purnank Tyagi producing a fine spell (five for 33).

India chased down the target with 13.3 overs to spare as opener Yashasvi Jaiswal top-scored with 78 off 82 deliveries. Hamidullah Qadri took five for 61 for England.

The scores: England under-19 204 in 49.5 overs (George Hill 46, Purnank Tyagi five for 33) lost to India under-19 205 for nine in 36.3 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 78, Hamidullah Qadri five for 61).

## No way out



Overwhelmed: Jang Kun Lee of Patna Pirates is swamped by Jaipur Pink Panthers defenders. Panthers posted a 34-21 win in the first match of the Patna leg of ProKabaddi League Season-7. In the second match, Bengaluru Bulls pipped Bengal Warriors 43-42. \*RANJEET KUMAR

# U Mumba books semifinal berth, pushes Paltan to the brink



The propeller: Kirill Gerassimenko caused a flutter when he stunned Chuang Chih-Yuan.

## UTT

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

U Mumba became the first team to ensure a place in the semifinals with a 9-6 defeat of a struggling Puneri Paltan in the Ultimate Table Tennis league here on Saturday.

After four matches, Mumba tops the table with 33 points, while Paltan, which upstaged defending champion Dabang Delhi in the opener, has 23 and is almost certain to be confined to the cellar.

For a change, the overseas

players made the decisive difference.

In the last two singles, the 39th-ranked Kirill Gerassimenko surprised the 36th-ranked Chuang Chih-Yuan 2-1 and the 11th-ranked Doo Hoi Kem expectedly proved superior to Sabine Winter, ranked 58th, by a similar scoreline to make Mumba's victory look convincing.

Even in the first two singles, Mumba proved stronger and Paltan was left to rue the successive defeats of the recently crowned Commonwealth singles champions Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee. Mumba won all

four singles 2-1 and lost the mixed doubles by an identical margin.

From the outset, it was evident that the pressure of scoring a big win to stay in contention for a place in the semifinals was pulling Paltan down. And this suited Mumba.

### Too much pressure

Sutirtha Mukherjee started well and came out stronger against Ayhika. But a bigger blow awaited Paltan when Harmeet found the pressure of a must-win situation too much to handle against an upbeat Manav Thakkar and

lost the first two games.

In mixed doubles, Chuang showed his class and played the key role in Paltan's win. If Paltan expected Chuang to recreate the magic against Gerassimenko, it was not to be.

The Kazakh proved a shade better, coming up with some splendid responses and winning the big points.

"I had lost to him in the last Asia Cup, so I was keen to beat him today. It was a tough match and I must say I got a bit lucky in the final game. But it was a close match," said Gerassimenko.

Doo, despite a minor hiccup on 'golden point' in the second game, was always in control against Sabine and provided a fitting finale to her team.

### The results:

U Mumba bt Puneri Paltan 9-6 (Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Ayhika Mukherjee 11-7, 6-11, 11-5; Manav Thakkar bt Harmeet Desai 11-6, 11-8, 8-11; Thakkar & Doo Hoi Kem lost to Chuang Chih-Yuan & Ayhika 5-11, 6-11, 11-6; Kirill Gerassimenko bt Chuang Chih-Yuan 11-7, 6-11, 11-8; Doo Hoi Kem bt Sabine Winter 11-5, 10-11, 11-3).

Sunday's fixture: Dabang Delhi v RP-SG Mavericks (Kolkata), 7 p.m.

# Satwiksairj and Chirag create history

First Indian duo in final of Super 500

## THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BANGKOK

Satwiksairaj Rankiredy and Chirag Shetty on Saturday became the first Indian team to enter the summit clash of a BWF Super 500 tournament with a 22-20, 22-24, 21-9 win over Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheolin in the Thailand Open semifinals here on Saturday.

The World No. 16 Indian team prevailed over the 19th-ranked Koreans after battling for 63 minutes.

It is the first final of the 2019 season for Satwiksairaj and Chirag, men's doubles silver medallists at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The unseeded Indian combination will face third seeds Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the summit clash on Sunday.

## Slow start

Satwiksairaj and Chirag were slow off the blocks, but kept pace at 11-10 at the break. After the break, the

Indians lifted their game and drew parity at 13 apiece before surging ahead 20-18.

But Hyun and Cheol pocketed two consecutive points to draw level at 20-20.

The Indians kept their composure and earned two crucial points to take the first game.

It was the other way round in the second game as the Indians took a 3-0 lead.

But the Indians looked in no mood to surrender as they clawed back to make it 20-all.

The pairs fought tooth and nail before the Koreans eventually pocketed the second game 24-22.

In the final game, it was a cakewalk for the Indians as their Korean rivals failed to sustain the tempo.



Keeping the flag flying: Chirag Shetty, left, and Satwiksairaj Rankiredy will hope to become the first Indian combination to win a Super 500 title. ■ FILE PHOTO

# Verstappen clinches maiden career pole

Bottas second and Hamilton third; Leclerc hits barriers but will still start fourth



Raging bull: Verstappen's success sparked celebrations among his large following of Dutch fans in the grandstands. ■ AFP

## HUNGARIAN GP

REUTERS  
BUDAPEST

Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrated a long-overdue first Formula One pole position at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday, with championship leader Lewis Hamilton qualifying third for Mercedes.

Instead of Hamilton taking a record-equalling seventh pole in Hungary, and 88th of his career, the Dutch 21-year-old wrote his name in the record books as the sport's 100th driver to secure a pole.

"This feels good, this feels really good," he shouted over the team radio after a roar had gone up from his massed supporters.

Finland's Valtteri Bottas, 41 points behind Hamilton after 11 of the races, qualified alongside Verstappen on the front row of the grid.

## 'Incredible'

After stepping out of the car, Verstappen said: "It's incredible. This one was still missing. For me, today was an important one, a very nice

## Max's day out

■ Verstappen's maiden career pole, in his 93rd attempt. Becomes the first Dutchman to take pole

■ Red Bull's pole position is its fourth in almost six years, and the first time this season

■ Verstappen is the 100th driver to take pole in F1 history. It comes 11 years to the day since Heikki Kovalainen became the 100th man to win a Formula One race, and at the same track!

■ It is the first pole for a Honda-powered engine since 2006

one and a great one for the team."

The youngster has already savoured seven career victories, including two in the last three races, and the pole came on his 93rd attempt.

Already the only Dutch driver ever to win a championship Grand Prix, he became the first to take a pole – which was also a first for a Honda-powered car since Australia 2006 with Britain's now-retired Jenson Button.

"It's an incredible feeling to get your first pole so I'm

really happy for him," said Hamilton, who won in Hungary last year from pole.

## Damages

Charles Leclerc was the quicker of the two Ferrari drivers in fourth place, despite smashing backwards into the tyre wall during the first phase and damaging his car's rear wing, forcing a quick change.

Teammate Sebastian Vettel will line up fifth, with Red Bull's Pierre Gasly sixth and McLaren's Lando Norris the best of the rest in seventh.

## STARTING GRID

**Front row:** Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas; **Second:** Hamilton and Charles Leclerc; **Third:** Sebastian Vettel and Pierre Gasly; **Fourth:** Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz; **Fifth:** Romain Grosjean and Kimi Raikkonen.

**Sixth:** Nico Hulkenberg and Alexander Albon; **Seventh:** Daniil Kvyat and Antonio Giovinazzi; **Eighth:** Kevin Magnussen and George Russell.

**Ninth:** Sergio Perez and Daniel Ricciardo; **10th:** Lance Stroll and Robert Kubica.

# It's Exclusivenorthwind vs That's My Class

HYDERABAD: Exclusivenorthwind and That's My Class may fight out the finish in the Air Command Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Sunday (August 4).

**1. VIKARABAD PLATE (1,600m),** 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. II), 1-10 p.m.: 1. N R I Flame (6) Kuldeep Singh 60, 2. Brave Warrior (5) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 3. Limousine (4) Afroz Khan 59.5, 4. Shivalik Sand (3) Deepak Singh 59.5, 5. Mossad (2) Ajith Kumar 59, 6. Adamant And Rising (4) G. Naresh 52 and 7. Turf Emperor (7) Umesh 51.5.

**1. N R I FLAME, 2. BRAVE WARRIOR, 3. MOSSAD.**

**2. SILVERADO PLATE (Div. II),** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-40: 1. Explosive (7) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. My Journey (9) Ashhad Asbar 56, 3. Premier Action (6) Umesh 56, 4. Secret Command (4) N. Rawal 56,

5. Stepper (3) S.G. Prasad 56, 6. Unstoppable (5) Kiran Naidu 56, 7. Carmella (1) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 8. Lesley (2) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 9. Light Music (8) Nakhat Singh 54.5 and 10. Shooter (10) A.A. Vikrant 54.5.

**1. UNSTOPPABLE, 2. PREMIER ACTION, 3. EXPLOSIVE.**

**3. TANASHA PLATE (1,600m),** 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), (No whips), 2-10: 1. Gusti Look (7) Suraj Narredu 61, 2. Gincia Azzurra (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Et Voici (1) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 4. Buttonwood (2) Abhay Singh 59.5, 5. Soul Empress (3) R.S. Jodha 57, 6. Moka (6) Jitendra Singh 53.5 and 7. Honourable Guest (5) Afroz Khan 50.

**1. SOUL EMPRESS, 2. GUSTY LOOK, 3. GINCIA AZZURRA.**

**4. WANAPARTHY CUP (Div. II),** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2-45: 1. Southern Crown (4) Surya Prakash 62, 2.

Durango (10) Suraj Narredu 59, 3. Sea Castle (3) Aneel 58.5, 4. Mekes (6) Afroz Khan 57, 5. News O' Star (5) R.N. Darshan 57, 6. Nayadeep (1) Ashhad Asbar 55.5, 7. Solar Heights (9) Rafique Sk. 54, 8. Lockhart (8) Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 9. Euro Zone (7) C.P. Bopanna 52.5 and 10. Satin Symphony (2) Santosh Raj 50.

**1. DURANGO, 2. NAYADEEP, 3. MEKA'S.**

**5. SILVERADO PLATE (Div. I),** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 3-15: 1. Born Greek (8) R.N. Darshan 56, 2. Linewiler (1) Umesh 56, 3. No Compromise (9) Deep Shanker 56, 4. O'Brien (11) Kuldeep Singh 56, 5. Sheldon (2) P. Sai Kumar 56, 6. Turbulence (6) S.G. Prasad 56, 7. Big League (5) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 8. Green Turf (7) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 9. Moskova (3) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 10. Safra (10) N. Rawal 54.5 and 11. Shivalik Valley

(4) Rohit Kumar 54.5.

**1. LINEWILER, 2. SHIVALIK VALLEY, 3. SAFRA.**

**6. AIR COMMAND CUP (1,400m),** 3-y-o & over, rated 75 & above (Cat. I), 3-45: 1. Highly Acclaimed (4) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Exclusive Wind (1) Santosh Raj 58, 3. Exclusivenorthwind (2) Koushik 57.5, 4. That's My Class (5) Akshay Kumar 57, 5. Moondancer (6) Rohit Kumar 56 and 6. Chase Your Dreams (3) Gopal Singh 54.

**1. EXCLUSIVENORTHWIND, 2. THAT'S MY CLASS.**

**7. WANAPARTHY CUP (Div. I),** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-15: 1. Ashwa Raftar (6) Kunal Bunde 62, 2. Super Dart (9) Suraj Narredu 61.5, 3. Shaquille (7) Kiran Naidu 59, 4. Star Gazer (5) C.P. Bopanna 58.5, 5. King Maker (4) Surya Prakash 57, 6. Platinum (1) G. Naresh 56.5, 7. Desert Moon (8) Rohit Kumar 54.5, 8. The Special One (10) Ak-

shay Kumar 54, 9. Dunkirk (3) Afroz Khan 53.5 and 10. Exclusive Striker (2) Abhay Singh 53.5.

**1. SUPER DART, 2. THE SPECIAL ONE, 3. DUNKIRK.**

**8. NIZAM SAGAR PLATE** (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4-45: 1. Wings Of Eagles (5) B.R. Kumar 60.5, 2. Ashwa Arjun (9) Gaurav Singh 58, 3. Alta Vita (7) Afroz Khan 56.5, 4. Lancashire (3) P. Sai Kumar 55.5, 5. Royal Style (4) R.N. Darshan 55.5, 6. Mr. Shanghai (8) Kuldeep Singh 55, 7. Call Of The Blue (2) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 7. Ajmal Birju (6) Gopal Singh 53 and 9. Royal Avenger (1) Ajit Singh 52.5.

**1. WINGS OF EAGLE, 2. CALL OF THE BLUE, 3. AJMAL BIRJU.** Day's best: UNSTOPPABLE.

Double: DURANGO – SUPER DART.

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (I): 1, 2 & 3; (II): 3, 4 & 5; (III): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

# Equestrian Federation fails to meet compliance deadline

The body has sought an exemption but could be de-recognised by the Sports Ministry

## EQUESTRIAN

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

With the passing of the August 3 deadline, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) could join the Indian Golf Union (IGU) as the second army-dominated sports body, in five weeks, to be de-recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

In February, the Ministry made it clear that "renewal of recognition to Equestrian Federation of India is subject to their compliance of Sports Code within the time frame allotted to them i.e. latest by 03.08.2019, failing which their recognition status will be reviewed and action taken as per extant guidelines."

## Peculiar nature

The EFI had written to the Ministry on June 24 and sought an exemption from complying with the Sports Code, citing the "peculiar" nature of the sport.

Explaining the EFI's stand to *The Hindu*, its secretary-general Col. R. K. Swain said, "Equestrian cannot be equated with other sports, and hence the parameters applied to other National Sports Federations cannot be applied to EFI."

Swain elaborated, "Since the sport includes an equine athlete [horse] and a human [rider], it is not possible to find them in every district or state.

"In view of the non-availability of horses and riders, the EFI has not been able to form the minimum of 24

state associations with 50% of district associations affiliated to them [as stipulated in the Sports Code].

## Club-based sport

"Unlike other disciplines, equestrian is a club-based sport. We have 15 state associations most of them inactive besides over 300 clubs and army units as affiliates of EFI, with two votes each.

"Without the army's support and structure, the sport will die. Private stakeholders can hold dressage and show-jumping. But eventing is something only the army is capable of hosting," declared Swain.

## Difficult guidelines

Reinforcing its stand, in the letter to the Ministry, the EFI has mentioned that disciplines like rowing, yachting and winter sports could find it difficult to follow the guidelines of the Sports Code.

"How can you have winter sports in Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh? Is it possible?" asked Swain and continued, "The Ministry guidelines seek facilities for yachting and rowing in all states. That's not possible. Therefore, till the Sports Code is appropriately revised, the EFI's recognition should continue."

However, given the EFI constitution that allows individual members to vote in contravention of the International Olympic Committee charter, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has already downgraded it to associate member status.

In what is being seen in the sport's circles as continued defiance, the EFI considered membership applications of six new clubs and 26 individuals during its recent executive committee meeting in New Delhi. It is learnt that the EFI has over 1,250 individual members in addition to more than 325 clubs – significantly, all part of the EFI's electoral college.

Questioning the EFI's functioning, former National champion Lt. Col. Sandeep Diwan (retd) said, "The federation, completely dominated and run by the army, follows a completely undemocratic system for the election of its officials. To retain majority votes, the army has made a large number of its own units members who have nothing to do with the sport such as Mechanised Transport Battalions, Supply Companies, FOL Depots, Dog units, to name a few."

In the past, the EFI had convinced the Ministry of its efforts to fall in line and managed two extensions of six months each, ending 2017. As things stand, the EFI could go the IGU way. The IOA could set up an *ad hoc* Equestrian Governance Committee, much like the five-member Golf Governance Committee until fresh elections, under revised statute.

"We have presented our case and now it is up to the Ministry," said Swain.

"If the Ministry thinks otherwise, it could prove to be a death knell for equestrian in the country."

# Three in a row for Rajiv Sethu

Rahil holds nerve to win the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category

## MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI

International rider Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) notched up his third win in a row in the Pro-Stock 165cc class, while Hyderabad's Rahil Shetty (Sparks Racing) held his nerve to pull off a brilliant victory in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National motorcycle racing championship at the MMRT here on Saturday.

## Impressive wins

Also scoring impressive wins were Bengaluru-based Anish Shetty, who led a podium sweep for Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing in the Pro-Stock 201-300cc, and Venkatesan, who topped the Novice (Stock 165cc) race.

Sethu, who missed the first round due to international commitments, is playing catch up as his hat-trick of wins has now taken him to the third position (75 points) on the leaderboard, behind TVS Racing's Jagan Kumar (94) and teammate Sarath Kumar (78).

**The results (provisional):** **National c'ship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc: Race-1:** 1. Rahil Shetty (Sparks Racing) 11:41.443s; 2.



Hat-trick: Rajiv Sethu won the Pro-Stock 165cc class to move to third spot in the leaderboard. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) 11:41.990; 3. K.Y. Ahmed (TVS Racing) 11:42.201.

**Pro-Stock 201-300cc: Race-1:** 1. Anish Shetty (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) 12:11.667; 2. Abhishek Vasudev (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) 12:20.100; 3. Aravind Balakrishnan (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) 12:20.245.

**Pro-Stock 165cc: Race-1:** 1. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) 12:01.973; 2. Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) 12:02.073; 3. Sarath Kumar (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) 12:02.833.

**Novice (Stock 165cc): Race-1:** 1. Venkatesan (Motomaniac Racing) 13:06.397; 2. P. Mohan Babu (Rockers Racing) 13:06.447; 3. Abhimanyu Gautam (Sparks Racing) 13:06.628.

**One-Make c'ship: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup-NSF 250R: Race-1:** 1. Md. Mikail

(Chennai) 11:04.391; 2. Varoon Sadasivam (Chennai) 11:12.581; 3. Kritik Vasant Habib (Gadag) 11:13.432.

**CBR 150 (Novice): Race-1:** 1. Lal Nunsanga (Aizawl) 13:16.118; 2. Samuel Martin (Bengaluru) 13:16.240; 3. S. Deepak Kumar (Chennai) 13:16.528.

**TVS Open (RR 310): Race-1:** 1. S. Kannan (Chennai) 11:54.079; 2. P.M. Soorya (Chennai) 12:02.607; 3. R. Aravind Ganesh (Chennai) 12:02.680.

**Novice (RTR 200): Race-1:** 1. Venkatesan (Chennai) 13:24.694; 2. Lakshminipathy Balaji (Vellore) 13:25.047; 3. Ullas Santrupt Nanda (Bengaluru) 13:25.380.

**Girls (RTR 200, 5 laps):** 1. Nivetha Jessica (Chennai) 11:30.986; 2. Lani Zena Fernandez (Puducherry) 11:31.075; 3. Lakiya Lee Charles (Chennai) 11:32.354.

# Santos, Bidyashagar net for East Bengal

## DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

Taking the field as a late second-half substitute, Khangembam Bidyashagar Singh created one and finished one to help East Bengal down a 10-man Army Red 2-0 in a group A League match of the 129th Durand Cup, here at its home ground on Saturday.

The quicksilver forward, introduced in the 78th minute, made the difference as East Bengal tried desperately to break the deadlock with a draw appearing imminent.

The goal route opened in the 85th minute after Bidyashagar was unfairly brought down by the Army goalkeeper Muhammed Sha-

noos, who rushed out of the box to commit the foul. Shanoo received marching orders as East Bengal's Spanish striker Jaime Santos stepped up to score from the resultant free-kick. Bidyashagar put his name on the scoresheet in the first minute of injury time when he tapped home a cross from right-back Samad Ali Mallick.

Making its first outing of the season, East Bengal looked rusty at the start and struggled to find cohesion against the tough-playing Army side. The initial quarter saw Army Red calling the shots, but it failed to convert the chances in absence of a good finisher. East Bengal began to find rhythm in the second quarter of the ac-

tion but the woodwork came in the way twice to deny Santos and Boithang, who made the attempts in the 23rd and 29th minutes respectively.

The change of ends did not improve the situation for East Bengal, which found the armymen too good in defence. Santos had another chance in the 71st minute but he failed to keep his header on target. East Bengal coach Alejandro Menendez brought in Bidyashagar as his final replacement and the decision worked well for the home side, which got two goals in the final six minutes.

**The result:** East Bengal 2 (Jaime Santos 85, Khangembam Bidyashagar Singh 90+1) bt Army Red 0.

# Lovlina and Neeraj clinch gold in Russia

Solanki gets silver; Indians fetch six medals

## BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Lovlina Borgohain and Neeraj clinched gold medals while Gaurav Solanki bagged a silver as Indian boxers ended their campaign with a rich haul at the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International boxing tournament in Kaspysk, Russia.

The Indian boxers fetched six medals at the tournament, including two golds, one silver and three bronze.

Reigning Asian Championships gold medallist Pooja Rani suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat against home fa-



Take that! Lovlina was on guard throughout but never shied away from raining a flurry of punches. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vourite Anna Anfinogenova in the middleweight (75kg) semifinals.

Govind Sahani (49Kg) and Jony (60Kg) also grabbed bronze medals after their

semifinal losses. While Govind lost to Russia's Kurban Bayranbekov 1-4, Jony went down to Russia's Natalya Shadrina by a similar scoreline.



Neeraj ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lovlina (69kg) was on guard throughout the bout and never shied away from raining down Assunta Canfora's flurry of punches to grab a narrow 3-2 win.

India Open gold medallist champion Neeraj (57kg), who had caused a big upset in the semifinals by stunning former world champion Alessia Mesiano 3-2, continued her impeccable form in the summit clash against Russia's Malika Shakhidova.

With two of the judges' points being drawn at 28-28, the Strandja Cup bronze medallist Neeraj went on to register a commanding 3-0 victory over the Russian.

Gaurav Solanki succumbed to a 0-5 defeat to Uzbekistan's Abdulkhay Shakhmatov. He was unable to judge his opponent's pace and power and could never recover from early blows.

TV PICKS

**Badminton:** Thailand Open: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.  
**The Ashes:** 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**Formula One:** Hungarian GP: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.  
**TNPL:** Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m.  
**UTT:** Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**FA Community Shield:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**West Indies vs India:** 2nd T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.  
**Global T20:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



**Diksha misses cut at British Open**  
WOBURN  
Young Indian golfer Diksha Dagar missed the cut at the AIG Women's British Open after carding a disappointing seven-over 79 in the second round, here on Saturday. While she was dejected at missing out on weekend action, Diksha said she was richer in experience after playing two Majors in three weeks. She will tee up at the Scottish Open next. Interestingly, also missing the cut at 12-over was former World No. 1 Lydia Ko. Ashleigh Buhai of South Africa was on top at 12-under 132. PTI



**Learn to deal with scrutiny: Klopp**  
LIVERPOOL  
Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool must learn to deal with its standing as European champion as it kicks off its campaign against Premier League winner Manchester City in Sunday's Community Shield at Wembley. "I want to be completely focused on a new season. It's very important and we will learn it. But no one gives you a book 'How To Deal With a Champions League win'. You have to do it by yourself and we will do that," he said. AFP



**Newcastle signs Maximin and Willems**  
LONDON  
Newcastle swooped for promising Nice forward Allan Saint-Maximin (*in pic*) and also signed Eintracht Frankfurt defender Jetro Willems on loan on Friday. Saint-Maximin, a French Under-21 international, moved to the Premier League club on a six-year contract for a fee reported to be £20 million. Newcastle has the option of signing Willems on a permanent basis at the end of the upcoming season. AFP



**Rashid withdraws from Yorkshire squad**  
YORKSHIRE  
England spinner Adil Rashid on Friday withdrew his name from Yorkshire's Vitality Blast due to a shoulder injury. Rashid trained at Emerald Headingley on Thursday and declared himself unfit for a game against Worcestershire on Friday, due to the worsening of the condition of his shoulder. ANI

**Brathwaite to lead St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots**  
BASSETTERRE (SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS)  
West Indies T20 skipper Carlos Brathwaite will lead St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the upcoming season of the Caribbean Premier League. Brathwaite will captain the team after former skipper Chris Gayle moved to Jamaica Tallawahs. "I'm very excited! This year is about trying to continue that same thought process," Brathwaite said. ANI

Looking forward to World Test Championship: Rahane

CAB's Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Arun Lal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

India Test team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane made the most of a short gap between his stint for Hampshire and the country's two-match Test series in the West Indies by training at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. Rahane, who played his last county match for Hampshire between July 13 and 16, moved to Bengaluru to train under the guidance of his idol Rahul Dravid and prepare for the West Indies Test series, starting on August 22. "I was doing my fitness. The reason for going to Bengaluru was because it was raining heavily in Mumbai. I trained under Rahul Dravid, he has been one of my role models," said Rahane, who was the chief guest at the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) annual awards function here on Saturday. Rahane said India could not take the Caribbeans lightly. "We all know they are an unpredictable team. It is important to respect them and play our game. I am looking forward to giving my best."



**Reward:** Ajinkya Rahane presenting a ceremonial jacket of the Lifetime Achievement Award to former Bengal captain Arun Lal as Sourav Ganguly and CAB joint secretary Abhishek Dalmia look on. \*RAJEEV BHATT

The middle-order batsman was excited about the World Test championship. "This is something we all are looking forward to. Every Test match and every series

is special and the best thing about Test cricket is you have to follow your routine day in and day out," he said. International Arun Lal, who was presented the Kar-

tick Bose Lifetime Achievement Award, said it was an emotional moment for him. "The only thing that comes to mind is gratitude. As an outsider, I was embraced immediately. I have got more than I bargained for and more than I deserved," he said. CAB president Sourav Ganguly said Arun Lal, who played for the Bengal Ranji Trophy-winning side in 1989-90, was an inspiration for every cricketer. "Under you (as coach), I hope Bengal can win the Ranji Trophy again," said Ganguly. The State women's team and women's under-23 and under-19 sides – which won National championships – were also felicitated. **Other award winners: Cricter-of-the-Year:** Abhimanyu Easwaran. **Fast bowler:** Mukesh Kumar; **Under-23 cricketer:** Ritwik Roy Chowdhury. **Under-19 cricketer:** Karan Lal; **Best woman cricketer:** Deepti Sharma; **Best women's under-23 cricketers:** Deepti Sharma and Tanushree Sarkar, **Best women's under-19 cricketer:** Mouli Mondal.

Messi handed three-month ban

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ASUNCION  
Argentina star Lionel Messi was banned from playing for his national team for three months and fined \$50,000 on Friday by CONMEBOL after he heavily criticised the South American football governing body during the Copa America. The 32-year-old Barcelona forward had accused CONMEBOL of "corruption" after he was sent off against Chile during the third-place play-off during the tournament in Brazil, which ended last month. Messi was angered by two incidents during the June-July Copa hosted by bitter rivals Brazil. Argentina was denied two penalty claims in its 2-0 semifinal defeat to the host, after which Messi claimed Brazil was "managing a lot in CONMEBOL these days." And when he was dismissed in the next game, which Argentina went on to win 2-1, he couldn't contain his anger. "Corruption and the referees are preventing people from enjoying the football," Messi said.

Semenya's human rights should come before science

It is not an accident that the IAAF refers [only] to unlawful discrimination: Schwab

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

For two-time Olympic champion Caster Semenya, the European Court of Human Rights may well be the last court of appeal to overturn the restrictions placed on her by the IAAF to compete as a woman. The case may come to rest on whether the IAAF's stricture that the South African should medically reduce her testosterone levels to continue competing in select races is a human rights violation.

**Starting point**  
But what's gaining ground is the view that athletes' human rights should be the starting point and not the last resort. It found support at the GoSports Foundation Sports Law & Policy Symposium on Saturday through Brendan Schwab, Executive Director of World Players Association and a leading human rights lawyer, and Craig Foster, a former Australian footballer, whose stellar role helped free Hakeem al-Araibi, an Australian citizen of Bahraini descent who was on the verge of being extradited to Bahrain by Thailand on the basis of dodgy criminal charges. "There should be a policy commitment to internationally recognised human rights," said Schwab.

**Unethical**  
"The rights against cruel and inhumane treatment are absolute. If you apply that test, I don't possibly see how the regulations that were pro-



**Call for unity:** Craig Foster and Brendan Schwab feel that fellow athletes should come forward to support Semenya's cause. \*N. SUDARSHAN

posed to Semenya would be upheld. The World Medical Association said afterwards that it was unethical to prescribe that treatment. That should have been picked up before the regulations were passed." The fact that the IAAF said it was not subject to any universal declaration of human rights as it was a "private body" hasn't gone down well. "The CAS can just decide cases with reference to the rules that are there before them. But rules are deliberately narrow," said Schwab. "It is not an accident that the IAAF refers [only] to unlawful discrimination, because discrimination is not an absolute right. That's their level of commitment. The term human right does not appear in their constitution and that is not an accident." "We need constitutional commitments that respect human rights. FIFA has done that, Commonwealth Federation will soon do. If this case had been heard in foot-

ball, I am sure there would have been a very different outcome, irrespective of the science. Because the inquiry will be broad enough that even if some athletes were to be excluded, we could be confident that it would be human rights compatible." According to Foster it is that legal human rights framework embedded in a small number of sports, including football, that helped secure Hakeem's release. "Hakeem had the entire international system of law on his side," explained Foster. "In the IAAF case with Semenya, the notion that a sport can say that it feels no obligation to respect the human right of an individual is staggering." "We were successful with Hakeem because we united fans and players and they forced the authorities to act. In Semenya's case where are her fellow athletes, the brethren, male or female? If they say 'if you breach her rights, you breach ours,' it would be very different."

A gold medal is not everything: Bindra

You need to find the right balance, says the ace shooter

ASHWIN ACHAL BENGALURU

Winning the men's 10-metre air rifle gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics was the crowning glory of Abhinav Bindra's illustrious career, but it came at a cost. The shooter believes that he sacrificed his mental peace to achieve this success, and that "a gold medal is not everything in life". Bindra spoke at a discussion titled 'Athletes and mental health', at the 'The Sports Law & Policy Symposium', organised by LawNK and GoSports Foundation here on Saturday. Bindra was joined on the panel by Sanjeev Jain, NIMHANS professor, and Anisha Padukone, golfer and Direc-

tor, The Live Love Laugh Foundation. The session was moderated by sports journalist Sharda Ugra. **Mental toll**  
On the mental toll it took to achieve the gold medal dream, Bindra said, "I definitely would not do it over again, and I would not recommend my way to anybody else. I was very passionate about my sport, but I abused my passion. I had a single-minded focus, and while this approach got me success, it is not the right way to do it. A gold medal is not everything in life. I tell athletes that you can abuse talent and passion by not giving it anything, and you can also abuse it by giving too much. If you can find

the right balance, you can deliver to the best of your ability." Anisha, daughter of badminton legend Prakash Padukone, spoke about handling failure in the face of high expectations. "I grew up in a sporting family. Even though it was not explicitly stated, being exceptional was an in-built, underlying emotion – right from performing menial tasks all the way to our professional careers. One of the challenges for me was to accept that it was okay to fail," Anisha said. Anisha explained that the The Live Love Laugh Foundation, founded by her sister and actor Deepika Padukone, aims to help de-stigmatise mental illness.

Divij & Erlich crash out; Kadhe-Myneni win title

SPORTS BUREAU LOS CABOS (MEXICO)

Divij Sharan and Jonathan Erlich of Israel lost 6-2, 3-6, [10-3] to Dominic Inglot and Austin Krajicek in the doubles semifinals of the \$858,565 ATP tennis tournament here. Arjun Kadhe and Saketh Myneni won the doubles title in the \$135,400 Challenger in Chengdu, China, with a 6-2, 3-6, [10-3] win over Koreans Nam Ji Sungha and Song Min-Kyu. **The results: \$858,565 ATP, Los Cabos, Mexico: Semifinals:** Dominic Inglot (GBR) & Austin Krajicek (USA) bt Jonathan Erlich (Isr)

& Divij Sharan 6-2, 3-6, [10-3]. **\$135,400 Challenger, Chengdu, China: Final:** Arjun Kadhe & Saketh Myneni bt Nam Ji Sung & Song Min-Kyu (Kor) 6-3, 0-6, [10-6]. **\$25,000 ITF women, Chinese Taipei: Final:** Ramu Ueda (Jpn) & Riya Bhatia bt I-Hsuan Cho & Yi Tsen Cho (Tpe) 7-5, 6-2. **\$25,000 ITF women, Woking, England: Final:** Sarah Beth Grey & Eden Silva (GBR) bt Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Ankita Raina 6-2, 7-5. **Semifinals:** Naiktha Bains & Ankita Raina bt Vivian Heisen (Ger) & Diana Marcinkovica (Lat) 7-5, 4-6, [10-8]. **\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Semifinals:** Sowjanya & Sravya bt Adelina Baravi & Victoria Mikhaylova (Rus) 7-5, 3-6, [10-6].



Winners: Arjun Kadhe and Saketh Myneni were champions in the \$135,400 Challenger in Chengdu. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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